

Serial No. 09/735,469  
JJ-11 050US

Page 4

REMARKS

Claims 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 remain in the application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application on the basis of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As requested by the Examiner claim 2 has been amended to overcome the informalities. Claim 2 has also been amended to specify that the releasable securing means allow for the adjustment of the spacing between the shoulder and lap belts at the third side to accommodate different sizes of users. With the amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the objection under 35 USC 112 has been overcome.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Sadler. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

While Sadler describes a protective covering, Sadler does not describe the use of the releasable securing means to allow for adjustment of the spacing between the shoulder and lap belts as set forth in the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 3 are not anticipated by Sadler.

Claims 2 to 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Golder. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

While Golder also describes a protective covering, similar to Sadler, Golder does not describe the use of the releasable securing means to allow for adjustment of the spacing between the shoulder and lap belts as set forth in the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 to 4 are not anticipated by Golder.

Claims 6 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golder in view of Smith. Application respectfully traverses this rejection.

Golder has been discussed above. Smith describes a safety belt buckle guard having a flexible body of fabric adapted to wrap around an engaged belt buckle assembly, a rigid member for preventing depression of the release mechanism and means for properly positioning the safety belt buckle guard, so that the rigid member

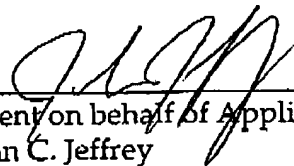
Serial No. 09/735,469  
JJ-11 050US

Page 5

overlies the release belt. However, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of these references still does not teach a covering having the particular structure set forth in the present claims with a releasable securing means which allows for adjustment of the spacing between the shoulder and lap belts to accommodate various sizes of users. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Golder and Smith does not render obvious claims 6 to 8 in the present application.

In view of all the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is allowable and early allowance is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Agent on behalf of Applicant  
John C. Jeffrey  
Registration No. 35,764  
(416) 368-8313

JJ/ab